

Prevalence of intestinal parasites in food handlers of the city of Saqqez in 2016

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Abstract This study was aimed at determining the prevalence of parasitic infections among the food handlers of Saqqez County in 2016. Stool samples collected from 1530 food handlers. All samples were examined by both direct technique and sedimentation technique using formalin-ethyl acetate for detecting the intestinal parasites. Of total participants, 1462 (95.6%) were male and 62 (4.4%) female. Intestinal parasitic infections were found in 92 (6.01%) individuals. The highest infection rate was due to *Giardia lamblia* (4.1%) and the lowest associated with *Endolimax nana*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, and *Hymenolepis nana* (0.1%). No significant correlation between the intestinal parasitic infections and age, gender, education level, gastrointestinal signs and symptoms, and the type of profession, was established. The results of the present study revealed that only a small number of food handlers in Saqqez County were infected with intestinal parasites with *G. lamblia* as the most common cause of infection. More strict health control for those working in food industries is of vital importance and continuous education to improve the level of general health in these people is undoubtedly considered as a key determinant towards lower number of parasitic infections.

Keywords: Prevalence Intestinal parasitic infection Food handlers